

I. REMARKS

A. Introduction

Applicants submit this Response in a bona fide attempt to (i) advance the prosecution of this case, (ii) answer each and every ground of objection and rejection as set forth by the Examiner, (iii) place the claims in a condition for allowance, and (iv) place the case in better condition for consideration on appeal. Applicants respectfully request reexamination and reconsideration of the above referenced patent application in view of this Response.

B. Response to Rejections

The Examiner has objected to Claims 8 and 9 “as being dependent upon a rejected base claim”. The Examiner has, however, indicated that Claims 8 and 9 would “be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims”.

As indicated above, Applicants have accordingly amended Claims 8 and 9 to include all of the limitations of the base claim.

II. CONCLUSION

Applicants now respectfully submit that pending Claims 8 and 9 in the above-referenced patent application are in condition for allowance and the same is respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any further questions or comments, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact their Attorneys of record at the telephone number below to expedite prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,
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